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Recognizing the helpers after the tornadoes

Readers highlight those who went above and beyond

**By Rob Burgess
Kokomo Tribune**

As Fred Rogers once said: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

In that spirit, we wanted to recognize the helpers in our community. So, we asked our readers: "Is there someone you'd like to recognize who went above and beyond during Wednesday's tornadoes?"

Here are the responses we received:

"Brent Smith and Samantha Smith. They were out today helping with cleanup." — Heather Ashcraft-Osmun

"I was at [Indiana] 22 near Morning Star Church when my SUV was hit by the tornado. My SUV was picked up twice. It was the scariest thing to ever happen to me. I was in panic and shock. This man in a red shirt came out of the church and helped me get inside the church! I wish I knew who he was

because I would love to thank him for helping me out in such chaos that was going on around us by making sure I was safe after the tornado hit!" —

Legeana Henry

"I'd like to thank the entire staff, teachers, transportation [workers] of Kokomo School Corporation from the bottom of my heart for keeping all of our kids safe. They were in good hands until we could get to them." —

Jennifer Weber

"I used to live there. I know many people there. I recognize each and every one who has joined together as a whole community! I thank each and every one." — Sheila Olson

"I would say the [shift] manager at Starbucks [Angel Ramos] for saving all the customers and employees, and then the guys who came and helped get them out right after the tornado." — Jennifer Davis

"I would love to thank Harry Young in Gateway Gardens for making sure that one of his wife's best friends and her company got to safety. I'm the company and I felt very safe. Thank you, Harry Young!" — Chauntelle Wallace

"I'm overwhelmed by our town and the kindness and caring, and our youth that came to help. What great kids." — Kathy Bargerhuff

“Wanted to give a big shout out and huge thank you to the Northwestern High School girls’ soccer team, Eastern High School boys’ and girls’ cross country team and Bona Vista for helping to clean up homes on 17th Street. They were very courteous and polite, and very organized. Some may doubt our youth these days, but these boys and girls were on it. Kokomo Strong!”
— Stephanie Hale

Rob Burgess, Tribune city editor, may be reached by calling 765-454-8577, via email at rob.burgess@kokomotribune.com or on Twitter at twitter.com/robaburg.